

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION**

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN DUANE GRIMES**, on February 17, 2001 at 8:45 A.M., in Room 350 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Duane Grimes, Chairman (R)
Sen. Tom A. Beck (R)
Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella (D)
Sen. Mignon Waterman (D)

Members Excused: Sen. John Cobb, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Dan Harrington (D)
Sen. Dale Mahlum (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Lois Menzies, Legislative Staff
Mary Gay Wells, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: SB 372, 2/14/2001

Executive Action: SB 372 Tabled

No tape recorder was used. All minutes were taken by hand.

HEARING ON SB 372**Sponsor:** SEN. JOHN BOHLINGER, SD 7, BILLINGS**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

SEN. JOHN BOHLINGER, SD 7, BILLINGS. There was a bill, SB 123, that had gone through the Senate that would authorize the Montana State Legislature to meet every year. The odd year would be non-budget bills and the even year would be budget bills.

Senate Bill 372 would dovetail into SB 123 and set up the various committees that would be necessary for the budgeting year. The sponsor felt that with term limits, it was more important that all legislators understand the budget and its workings. He explained the bill.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. VICKI COCCHIARELLA noted that lines 19 and 24 should be taken out. The bills and journals committee could be eliminated this legislative session.

SEN. TOM BECK inquired if there were only going to be three committees. **SEN. BOHLINGER** explained those three were the main committees but that a joint budget committee would establish joint subcommittees such as: general government and transportation; elected officials and labor; health and human services; natural resources, higher education, education and commerce, corrections and military affairs; and long-range planning.

SEN. COCCHIARELLA asked about the codification of the bill into Title 5, Chapter 5.

CHAIRMAN DUANE GRIMES did not see a conflict. He stated that the revenue oversight committee would continue.

SEN. BOHLINGER explained that Wyoming has been meeting every year for quite sometime, with one year to set the budget and the next year addressing other bills.

SEN. GRIMES indicated that 2005 would be the first year of yearly session and it would address non-budget items. The year 2006 would be for appropriations. He continued that the bill was good but that it seemed to be premature. There would be time to bring this forth in the 2003 Legislative Session.

There was discussion about SB 123 that was sitting on the table in a House committee. It was not clear whether that bill could die on the table or if they could table the bill or if they had to send it to the House for a vote.

SEN. BECK felt that committees could be discussed and set in place by the Rules Committee. He continued that the Legislative Council could work on this if it should become necessary.

Closing by Sponsor:

SEN. BOHLINGER closed. He felt the bill should be studied by an interim committee.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 372

Motion/Vote: **SEN. BECK** moved that **SB 372 BE TABLED. Motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 9:15 A.M.

SEN. DUANE GRIMES, Chairman

MARY GAY WELLS, Secretary

DG/MW

EXHIBIT (les40aad)